



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: December 13, 2016  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** Foothill Road Low Water Crossing Replacement over the Cuyama River (New Bridge No. 51C-0381); County Project No. 862339; Federal-Aid Project No. BRLO-NBIL (512); First Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the attached Proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008) (Attachment A) and make the California Environmental Quality Act findings required to adopt the Proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008) (Attachment B);
- b) Approve the Project, adopt the attached Proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008) (Attachment A), and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan included in the attached Proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008);
- c) Authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for bids to construct the Foothill Road Low Water Crossing Replacement over the Cuyama River (New Br. No. 51C-0381); County Project No. 862339; Federal-Aid Project No. BRLO-NBIL(512); First Supervisorial District; and
- d) Authorize the Director of Public Works to proceed with right-of-way negotiations for the potential purchase of Temporary Construction and Permanent Easements in support of the Foothill Road Low Water Crossing Replacement over the Cuyama River (New Br. No. 51C-0381); County Project No. 862339; Federal-Aid Project No. BRLO-NBIL(512); First Supervisorial District.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda in order to: 1) Request approval and adoption of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration 16NGD-00000-00008 (MND); 2) Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered information contained in the environmental document; 3) Approve the Project and adopt the Mitigation

Monitoring Plan; 4) Authorize the Director of Public Works to Advertise the project; and 5) Authorize the Director to proceed with right-of-way negotiations.

The proposed project is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Cuyama on Foothill Road at the Cuyama River crossing, approximately 1.5 miles west of State Route (SR) 33, as seen in the Vicinity Map (Attachment C). The portion of Foothill Road east of the Cuyama River follows the boundary between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County. This project proposes to replace the existing Foothill Road Low Water Crossing over the Cuyama River in the eastern Cuyama Valley. SR 166 is an important travel corridor that connects coastal areas (Santa Maria/Nipomo) to the San Joaquin Valley (Maricopa). The SR 166 Bridge, located approximately 4.3 miles downstream of Foothill Road, is one of two Cuyama River crossings in the Valley. The other river crossing is the Foothill Road low water crossing; however, it becomes impassable for substantial periods of time following major storm events, leaving the SR 166 Bridge as the only river crossing during these periods. In the event the SR 166 Bridge becomes impassable, the traveling public may be required to use SR 58 as an alternate east-west connection, which would involve up to 100 additional miles.

The proposed bridge would allow for safe crossing of the Cuyama River under all weather conditions by residents and commercial traffic, and improve emergency access during rainy periods when the current crossing is impassable. The current detour is approximately 17 miles. The proposed bridge would be a 1,430-foot long, 39-foot, 10-inches wide, multi-span cast-in-place reinforced concrete slab. The bridge deck would provide two 12-foot wide traffic lanes, a four-foot wide shoulder on each lane, and a five-foot wide pedestrian walkway. Concrete barriers would be provided on each side of the two traffic lanes which would provide a safety separation between the traffic lanes and pedestrian walkway. The proposed bridge is designed to meet current AASHTO Standards.

If approved, the Foothill Road crossing will be temporarily closed to through traffic for the duration of construction to minimize environmental and right-of-way impacts. Traffic will be detoured north, via SR 33 to the east and Kirschmann Road to the west, to the SR 166 crossing. Due to the size of the project and likelihood of summer rains impacting the schedule, the project will require two seasons for construction. The temporary road closure will be conducted in coordination with emergency service providers and construction signs will notify the traveling public prior to closures.



**Existing Foothill Road Low Water Crossing over the Cuyama River, looking westerly**

As part of the design process, the Public Works Department prepared the MND to evaluate the environmental effects of the construction of this new bridge (No. 51C-0381) on Foothill Road over the Cuyama River.

Upon approval of the environmental document and authority to advertise, authority to proceed with right-of-way negotiations, and completion of the acquisition process, the Department will proceed with advertisement of the project.

The proposed replacement of existing low water crossing will require the acquisition of a temporary construction easement and permanent easements on adjacent parcels. Approval by the Board of Supervisors will allow the Department of Public Works to proceed with right-of-way negotiations with the affected property owners. The project is scheduled to start construction in late spring of 2018 and finish in the fall of 2019. Public Works will publish the “Notice to Bidders” prior to the bid opening date. Sealed proposals to construct this project will be received at the front counter, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, California 93101 and 620 Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455, at a date to be determined, and will be opened publically and read aloud. This bridge will be entirely funded with Federal Highway Bridge Program funds and Toll Credits.

**Background:**

The existing low water crossing is eligible for replacement under the Federal Highway Administration’s Highway Bridge Program and would be replaced in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Pursuant to the CEQA requirements, the Public Works Department, acting as the lead agency, prepared an MND to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed low water crossing replacement project. Potentially significant impacts in the areas of Biological Resources, Water Resources/Flooding, Fire Protection, and Public Facilities will be reduced to less than significant with mitigation. To mitigate potential significant impacts, the Department will implement storm water protection measures and Habitat Restoration Plan.

With the implementation of these and other measures included in the MND, residual impacts would be less than significant.

On October 4, 2016, the Draft MND was released for a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period concluded on November 4, 2016. There were three public comments received during the public review period of the Draft MND: the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, Native American Heritage Commission, and the Santa Barbara Pistachio Company. Staff reviewed the comment letters and concluded no changes to the Draft MND were warranted. The comment letters have been included in Appendix A of 16NGD-00000-00008.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
Federal HBP	\$ 15,746,800.00
State Toll Credits	\$ 2,040,800.00
Total	\$ 17,787,600.00

**Narrative:**

The Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) will fund 88.53% of the project costs. Toll credits will provide the remaining 11.47%. Right of Way funds are budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund 0017, Org Unit 0600, Program 2820, and Account 8100, while construction funds are budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund 0017, Org Unit 0600, Program 2820, and Account 7510.

**Special Instructions:**

Original documents are to be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving the recommendations to:

Public Works, Transportation Division, Administration Section, Attn: Gena Valentine Felix, 568-3064, South County Public Works Office, 123 East Anapamu St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Proposed Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (16NGD-00000-00008)

Attachment B: CEQA Findings

Attachment C: Vicinity Map

**Authored by:**

Ron V. Bensel, P.E., Project Manager, 568-3311

Morgan Jones Senior Environmental Planner, 568-3059

**cc:** Project File